

S. 735, a bill to amend the Scientific and Advanced-Technology Act of 1992 to further support advanced technological manufacturing, and for other purposes

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on April 28, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2021	2021-2026	2021-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	480	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2032?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

S. 735 would authorize the annual appropriation of \$150 million over the 2022-2027 period for the National Science Foundation’s (NSF’s) Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program, which provides grants to educators and students for technical science and engineering education. The bill also would direct the agency to conduct pilot programs to increase the number of institutions of higher education that can compete for NSF grants.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted in fiscal year 2021.

Based on historical spending patterns for the ATE program, CBO estimates that providing those grants would cost \$478 million over the 2021-2026 period and roughly \$400 million after 2026, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. In 2021, the NSF allocated \$75 million for the ATE program.

Using information from the NSF, and based on the costs of similar activities, CBO estimates that conducting the pilot programs would require two additional employees at an average annual cost of \$175,000 each over the 2021-2026 period. In total, implementing that provision would cost \$2 million. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.



The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 250 (general science, space, and technology).

**Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 735**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2021-2026
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Advanced Technological Education							
Authorization	0	150	150	150	150	150	750
Estimated Outlays	0	18	71	110	132	147	478
Pilot Programs							
Estimated Authorization	*	*	*	*	*	*	2
Estimated Outlays	*	*	*	*	*	*	2
Total Changes							
Estimated Authorization	*	150	150	150	150	150	752
Estimated Outlays	*	18	71	110	132	147	480

CBO estimates that outlays for the Advanced Technological Education program after 2026 would total about \$400 million, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding; * = between zero and \$500,000.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Janani Shankaran. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.